

# Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday November 17, 2015

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

## Minutes

**Present:** Gary Utgard - Chair, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie, Jeremy Damren, Scott Michaud (via teleconference), Patrick Underwood (via teleconference), Cheri Volta

**Staff:** Drexell White

**Guests:** Ben Zetterman, Michel Vining

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. Kelly Roderick and Sally Taylor sent their regrets that they were unable to attend the meeting.

- A. Introductions – None Required
- B. Assign Timekeeper – Gary
- C. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

### 2. Minutes – September 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the September 22, 2015, meeting, were reviewed.

*Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 22, 2015, meeting (Petrie; second by LeBrun – carries)*

### 3. Old Business

#### A. Aroostook and Washington Counties Pearson Vue Sites - Update

Washington County Community College (WCCC) and Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) continue to develop regional testing centers that will include all levels of the National Registry of EMT cognitive exams. Drexell met with Heather Libby, Testing Coordinator at NMCC during a scheduled visit to Aroostook County at the end of September and toured the school's new testing facility.

Drexell will check on the status of the Central Maine Community College's NREMT testing status.

#### B. Random Sampling PSE Model

Committee members discussed the Random Sampling PSE Model, including the number of stations and what skills should be mandatory vs. optional. Discussion included:

- Should testing target the essential skills (e.g., Airway, Breathing, Circulation, and Patient Assessment) vs. evaluating skills that are otherwise part of EMR or EMT courses.
- Does practical testing do anything (i.e., Is the ability to demonstrate a skill indicative of a person's ability practice as a licensed EMS provider
- Would a scenario-based test (e.g., team-based approach to testing) be a better way to test?
- The Education Committee's opinion at its November 2015 meeting that a change in the State EMR and EMT Practical Skills Evaluation (PSE) would have no effect on the EMS education process.
- Ben Zetterman's overview of what other New England states are doing in regards to practical skills evaluation. Most states are using some type of skill sampling.

Following discussion. committee members:

- Opted to present a skills testing model to the Board in December that included
  - A random medical or trauma assessment station
  - Bag-Valve-Mask and Cardiac Arrest Skills Testing
  - Bleeding Control & Shock Management
  - Random skills tested under the current system would be evaluated as part of the education process, as are myriad other skills at the EMR and EMT levels.

***Motion: To recommend that the Board adopt the Exam Committee's proposed EMR/EMT Practical Skills Testing model (Petrie; second by Volta – motion carries)***

Staff will provide a copy (of the proposal submitted to the Board) to Exam Committee members.

Committee members expressed interest in developing scenario based testing for the EMR and EMT levels, but passed the above motion as a step to address immediate concerns and with the understanding that development of a scenario-based test would require significant develop and implementation time.

4. PSE Orientation Program – No Report

5. New Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 23, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS in Augusta.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White